



Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways Volunteers of the Month for November, 2012

Congratulations to the following volunteers!

Cheryl Claeysen and **Sharon Compton** have been involved in Girl Scouts for many years. They are co-service unit managers for the Marion Service Unit in Wayne County. Together they work as an amazing team. Their leaders respect and turn to them for advice. Cheryl and Sharon were also two of the key people on the steering committee that planned the council's Jamboree this past summer. Our council is very lucky to have such dedicated volunteers who have a true passion for the Girl Scout movement. Thank you, Sharon and Cheryl.

Amy Lynch has served as the Baldwinsville (Onondaga County) area service unit manager for the past three years and is also her older daughter's troop leader. Although she didn't start out to be the face of Girl Scouts in Baldwinsville, it is a role she has come to embrace. Recently, when asked how she got started, she simply laughed and said she really didn't know. After running two troop meetings in her daughter's co-op style troop, she decided that she wanted more for the girls and the only way to see that they got it, was to do it herself. Shortly after, she was running the troop with another parent. Several years ago, when the other parent stepped down, Amy located another volunteer, who doesn't even have a girl in Girl Scouts, to help her keep things going. Amy dedicates many hours of service each month to several organizations, but none to the extent that she volunteers for Girl Scouts. During a recent five-day period, she spent three days preparing for, and participating in, her service unit's fall encampment, planning and running a service unit meeting and then planning and hosting the unit's annual Rally Night. Approximately 70 girls and their parents attended this year's Rally Night. By the end of the evening, troops had been identified for all girls wanting to join – providing the potential volunteers follow through and complete the appointment process! Although Amy has a solid support system of volunteer school coordinators to help ensure girls are promptly placed, she is the driving force in seeing things through.

Barbara Novitsky is a Girl Scout Brownie troop leader and service unit product sales coordinator for the Chenango Forks Service Unit (Broome County). When we think of Barb, the phrases "positive influence on the girls," "great leader," "full of energy," and "making a difference in the community" all come to mind! We appreciate all that Barb does as both a leader and service team member. Thank you, Barb, for all you do!

Marilyn Paradis is the service unit product sales coordinator, adult learning facilitator and co-service unit manager for the Raquette Valley Service Unit (St. Lawrence County). She has graciously offered the retail team the use of her consignment shop to have a "mini traveling boutique" on three occasions now. The first time she offered to have a boutique in her shop (fall 2011), we did not have the technology we now do for a traveling boutique, and everything was done by hand – hand receipts, hand special orders, hand credit card transactions. Not only did she rock the socks off the shop – but she kept

meticulous records. By the next spring, we had the mobile register and she took to it like a fish to water! With minimal training, she was able to not only process sales, but take in return merchandise and replacement pieces when needed. This was a huge benefit to the people of the area, since getting to the nearest service center to exchange items is challenging. She had tremendous sales, and really bridged the gap between the council and the service units of the North Country! This fall she did another store, and was so thankful that we would allow her to take the mobile register – and this time she could log into her own internet service and didn't even need our air card. Many of her customers placed pre-orders, and we were able to bring her the items they wanted, along with fun things for the girls to use their cookie dough on. She is a spokesperson for the area, along with being a fun and enthusiastic volunteer, wanting to give the girls the best Girl Scout experience that can be had.

Pat Silvernail is with the Elmira Riverbanks Service Unit (Chemung County). She currently holds the service unit cookie coordinator position. Pat models many of our Girl Scout values. Pat offered to assist and support neighboring Crystal River Service Unit, which is very large, with their cookie program needs. She facilitated the Heritage Day Program at Benjamin Patterson Inn which was so popular and well-done, that a second event was created due to popular demand on October 27. Pat used her public speaking skills to present her knowledge about Juliette Low at Chemung County Historical Society's tribute to famous women. She also oversaw the Girl Scout historic item displays in celebration of 100th Anniversary at local libraries and the Arnot Mall event. She supports all service unit events fully. She's also a wonderful resource person to leaders everywhere. Thank you Pat for everything you do so well and for being a shining example of living the Girl Scout Promise and Law each and every day.

Kathy Youker has been involved in Girl Scouts for many years and in many ways. She has been a troop leader, service unit manager as well as an adult learning facilitator. Currently, Kathy is service unit manager along with Wendy Page for SU240 in Oneida County. This unit merged last year and now includes New Hartford, Whitesboro, New York Mills and Utica. Last year their unit served 323 girls and achieved over 100% of their goal. With her dedication and direction, the unit continues to grow and we continue to welcome new leaders and girls to the Girl Scout program. As an adult learning facilitator, Kathy has taken training to forward her knowledge to new and existing leaders to enhance their skills and become the best they can be in their positions. Kathy's excitement about the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is contagious and she represents what we would hope to have as a role model in each of our service units!

Council staff will be choosing a volunteer from each service center's area each month. Look for the December Volunteers of the month in a few weeks! Volunteers may also submit nominations for Volunteer of the Month by contacting your council representative.